Daar Paul, 12/13/75

While there seems to be no logic or intelligent self-interest or loftier motive that can move those you know, I report a few things on the chance the situation which has changed even more than the media indicates turns them on.

It is loss than a month since I announced Post Mortem. It has been less time than that since I began mailing copies out. I have done not a single show on it, not even by phone. The good wire-service stories were suppressed in all major markets, by all major papers. These good stories contained none of the substance of the book. Yet as of the last bank deposit, I think yesterday, we have been paid for enough copies to have recaptured more than a quarter of the mechanical costs. Don't exaggerate this figure. There are enormous other costs and the labor has been great. I've done virtually all the wrapping while resting. The cost of getting into a position to write the book can never be measured. Nor the time of the writing and assembling and suing and trips to avoid suits and the xeroxing and so much more. I'm merely addressing the commercial possibilities of even a book with the liabilities of this one/

All the sales come from a single mailing of a simple flyer. The flyer, in turn, has generated sales of the earlier books. This was the single promotion. There have been and will be no ads. There has been no single other order like yours from any individual. In a few cases there have been orders for two.

Can you begin to imagine what the book could have done commercially, in normal commercial channels?

I'll not be seeking radio time by phone until the worst commercial month of the year, January. Partly because I am limited in what I can do and my first need is taking as much care of myself as I can.

The unsolicited mail has been magnificent. People dig it. And take time to say so.

Commercially this and the King assassination are potentially the hottest single subject there is. To the degree that ownership means anything, I own just about 100% of what literary rights there are and it is all first-person rights, my own work and my own writing and publishing. Even the King rights have reverted to me as part of the settlement in which, years late, I got my "advance" and accumulated interest.

I am not suggesting that the nrifge is crossed. Nor predicting magic. But if you have paid attention to what has been done by and come out of Congress it is an occasional burp that in its less unmellifulous moments has been a repetition of what wqas in the papers. I've sat back and waited. Beginning before I had little choice from illness.

Some of these guys will be content to grab the headlines they can and go on to other things. Whb they are is becoming clearer every day. Much of it has backfired. What has not has been two people disputing each other and the whole thing getting nowhere. I'm content because I'm limited. But I've taken what I intend to be the first step to do something about this. I had something very good worked out once and the internal politics ruined that.

Those who are serious are going to have to lay their own eggs and then decide for themselves what they will or will not do. I'm staying strictly away from them now. Besides, to help them I'll have to make a great amount of work public domain and this I have to at least postpone as long as I can repponsibly. We I not ill I'd have most of the next book drafted. So, I'm letting the self-promoters and the nuts have their day and accomplish nothing. Maybe it will then be possible for me to do something. I know that what has happened to everything thus far ought not happen to naything of mine. Besides, I'm in court on three active cases besides the decision in the Ray case, which is several month away and based on my work. Any one of these cases has fantastic potential. Otherwise I'd not have given away all I did two days ago on the King assassination that I got from the FBI under FOIA. The fools had no choice but to hold back and to give me irrefutable proof that they were. Here, of course, it depends on the judge and the

very uncomfortable media. But I'll be getting real hot stuff on the King assassination still and, hopefully, some attention to it now. I've got that well started. All the radio nets gave what I've done heavy play, CBS TV handled it. I've not seen the wire stories yet but I know there have been some. Actually, at my press conference I had not less than four times as many of the press as attended the Edwards hearing on the Oswald letter/FBI destruction. I regard this as close to incredible. I went for more than an hour and a half and nobody left. With this for openers, I do expect the next batch of stuff I get - and I do expect to get it - to receive more attention.

It would have been better in comprehensibility if there had not been the last-minute Congressional facilities, which required junking the release I had prepared and left me with no advance explanation for the press. And no xeroxes. I hope this has now been overcome for the future. I was able to get a Member to offer to make xeroxes for those wanting them.

With the next one - and I think I can arrange one after the holidays without getting more than I have already - I think I can have the professional help to do what now is beyond me physically. My only helpers were kids who took off from classes. They did and distributed the press releases even. ...

I suspect your people are more worried about Mafia involvement than in anything else. There is no basis for this and there is no basis for believing either was a Mafia job. I suspect those who promote the notion. Some may be no more than nuts or cheap commercializers but others have to have a better understanding and to realize the consequences.

For those with this fear the best way is honest handling which will have the effect of saying the Mafia was not involved. I've seen nothing credible- even reasonable- and especially on Ruby.

Anyway, I wanted to update you before going to bed, with today's packaging done and ready for the mailman.

I expect sales to slacken off not only from the holidays but also because there will, inevitably, be a point of diminishing return from the mailing.

On the other hand, we can see word-of-mouth sales coming in, all prepaid.

It won't be too long before I'll be suing the CIA and the FBI for their files on me. I'm farthur ahead with the CIA. I may make the final move before filing suit over the weekend. I've gotten some pretty good stuff that I didn't have but not one of the hybdreds of papers I did, so that one looks good. I think you can see the wash-off potential. Meanwhile, I'm taking my time and building a record for court. I've got proof that the CIA was watching my publishing activity on the King case separate from my other work, which won't hurt. They gave it to me, together with a record that says that on all my evaluations when I was inmintelligence I was rated "excellent."

Even part of something I'd forgotten: part of one of FDR's most famous fireside chats came from me. They gave me the records of my delivering it to Jimmy Roosevelt and records I don't recall of its return. If I even clean the cellar up I may even have it. It was the plans for the Nazi takeover in Chile.

Excuse me for not correcting the typing. I'm tired. Thanks for everything,

sincerely,